

NOS Special Projects Highlights: July 2007

Project of the Month

NOAA RESTORATION DAY 2007

On June 12, hundreds of NOAA employees and partners participated in the fourth annual NOAA Restoration Day in two different states -- one in Maryland and the other in Virginia. NOAA Restoration Day is one of the largest voluntary federal employee sponsored environmental stewardship events in the Bay watershed. The Maryland event was held at the Jug Bay component of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Maryland and the Virginia event was held at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Rice Center in Charles City, VA. Volunteers planted underwater grasses grown in 22 tanks in NOAA offices, transplanted wild rice, performed fish seining and sampling, mapped and removed invasive plants, and completed digital elevation mapping. (Alison Hammer)



<http://restorationday.noaa.gov>

NOS

World Hydrography Day Brochure

Developed two design options for the Office of Coast Survey's World Hydrography Day brochure. The brochure provides background information on the annual event. (Emily Crum)

NOS Town Hall Meeting Support

Supported live video, audio, and slide presentation for the NOS Town Hall held June 12 in the NOAA Auditorium. Special Projects coordinated captioning, conference call, and live video feed so that employees outside the Silver Spring campus could participate. (Mike Shelby)

Coral Reef Project Inventory

Completed database construction and application code development for the Coral Reef Project Inventory. The Inventory is a Web-enabled database system designed to support the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) with the administration of an internal NOAA-wide coral reef project proposal, approval, and tracking process. This new system replaces an existing older system and features much improved security, a new database design and application code, improved user interface, and numerous new capabilities and features requested by the partner. CRCP will begin using the system by the end of July 2007. (Chris Clement)

Coral Reef Habitat Assessment

Calculation of the areal extent of coral reef habitat within Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the seven U.S. Coral Jurisdictions is nearly complete. Reports are complete for CNMI, Guam and American Samoa. Assessments are complete for Puerto Rico, USVI and Florida with reports nearing completion. The final assessment of the project (Hawaii) is slated to begin later this month. A final report will be complete in early August. (Joel Murray)

IOOS Strategic Planning

Special Projects staff supported the NOAA IOOS program with the development of a two-day strategic planning workshop. The workshop, which included representatives from all NOAA Line Offices, NOAA Budget, and the Office of Program Planning and Integration, resulted in the development of a program vision, mission, and seven strategic goals. SP then assisted with the development of a draft strategic plan that orients the program toward a mission that nests within and supports NOAA's larger mission scope, articulates NOAA's leadership role in the U.S. IOOS, and maintains consistency with other existing IOOS planning documents. (Kim Cohen)

International Year of the Reef 2008

Special Projects is working with NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program to provide NOAA level leadership, coordination, and planning support for IYOR 2008. Most recently, Special Projects planned and supported a series of two workshops to kick-off the IYOR planning effort. The purpose of these workshops was to provide participants with background information, review NOAA-wide projects that could be tied to IYOR, and to review and discuss what NOAA level outcomes should be for the upcoming year. (Kristen Crossett)

Gulf of Honduras (GoH) Strategic Planning Meeting (Guatemala City, Guatemala -- July 2-6, 2007)

GoH Project partners met to discuss and achieve consensus on the implementation of hydrographic activities that will enhance maritime navigational safety in the Gulf of Honduras. The meeting included a review of the GoH Hydrographic Activity Implementation Plan developed by NOS's Office of Coast Survey and NOS's Special Projects Office for Belize, Guatemala, and Honduras--the countries participating in the GoH Project. (John Hayes)

NOAA

Ocean News Kiosk

The Kiosk team reviewed results of initial testing with evaluation staff from Smithsonian's Office of Policy and Analysis. In each round of testing, individual and small groups of visitors to the National Museum of Natural History were randomly invited to take part in interviews lasting about ten to fifteen minutes. Results from initial testing will be incorporated into plans for the Kiosk prototype, to be installed at Maryland Science Center in Baltimore, and Nauticus, in Norfolk, in the late summer/early fall timeframe. Later this fall, the Kiosk team will coordinate the development of a working group with representatives from across NOAA line offices to begin the process of identifying content for the Kiosk that will be installed in Ocean Hall. (Mike Shelby)

200th Anniversary Web Site

Launched an interactive map (<http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/museums.html>) that provides information about the 200 venues showing "From Sea to Shining Sea: 200 Years of Charting America's Coasts," an exhibit created by NOAA and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Also added five feature stories for June. (Davida Remer)

Ocean Explorer Web Site

Updated the site daily to include images and logs from the Expedition to the Deep Slope, a continuation of the exploration and study of hydrocarbon seep communities deeper than 1,000 meters in the Gulf of Mexico. View the daily mission logs along with beautiful images at <http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/explorations/07mexico/welcome.html>. (Joe Flood)

Web-Mapping and GIS Training for ICC Senior Management Team

Special Projects, working with NOAA's Homeland Security Program Office and NMFS, conducted two training sessions for the Senior Management Team of NOAA's Incident Coordination Center. The training focused on the Incident Coordination Center Web-mapping site, providing a background in GIS, and conducting exercises in tracking NOAA staff and assets used to report mission-essential functions. (Robb Wright)

2007 National Marine Aquaculture Summit Web Site

Working with NOAA's aquaculture program, deployed the Aquaculture Summit Web site (<http://aquaculture2007.noaa.gov/>). NOAA hosted the June 26-27 summit on behalf of U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez. Although the architecture and design were established the previous month, the approved content, including text and images for each page, was delivered to the Web team on June 7. Within 24 hours of receiving the content, the Web team loaded the content, completed a technical review of the site, and launched the site to the public. The Web team continued to update the site leading up to and after the summit. (Jennifer Coletta)

Summary of Current Projects by Client: FY07 (as of July 10)

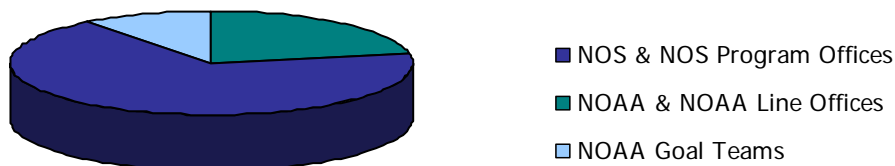


Chart represents cumulative numbers of active, proposed, and completed projects for fiscal year 2007.

	Active	Proposed	Completed	Estimated Level of Effort* (person years)
<i>TOTAL Projects</i>	108	6	37	41.7

*The level of effort estimates will fluctuate as new projects are added and existing projects are completed.

**There is an additional level of effort that goes into SP-specific projects (e.g., administrative).

Questions? Call Tom Culliton (301) 713-3000 x142